

U.S. Application No. 09/940,982

**REMARKS**

The Applicants request reconsideration of the final rejection dated May 8, 2006.

Claims 1-8 and 18-22 are now pending.

New claims 18-22 have been added to claim aspects of the disclosed invention in terms of varying scope. Claims 18-22 are supported, for example, in paragraphs [0004], [0007], [0015], [0086], [0089], [0090], [0093], [0095], and [0099], with reference to Figs. 1-2, 4-5, and 10 of the published application.

None of the documents of record, whether taken individually or in any motivated combination, is believed to disclose or fairly suggest the evaluation of the hamming weight of the processed second disturbance data, or the concatenation of the m-bit random numbers randomly into an n-bit random number which is used as the first disturbance data. In particular, no document of record recognizes the value of first disturbance data having a constant hamming weight, or the reduction in time required for evaluating the hamming weight of the first disturbance data by ensuring that the m-bit random number (from which the n-bit first disturbance data is produced) has a constant hamming weight.

In view of the foregoing new claims and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the

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Daniel J. Stanger

703-764-9480

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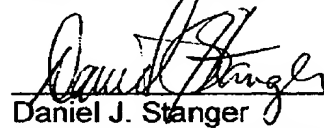
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deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417  
(referencing attorney docket no. NIT-295).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Daniel J. Stanger  
Registration No. 32,846

DJS/sdb  
(703) 684-1120